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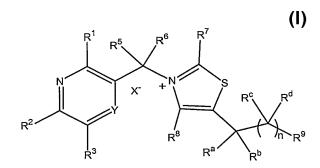
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(54) Title: THIAZOLIUMS AS TRANSKETOLASE INHIBITORS



(57) Abstract: The present invention provides N-3'-pyridylmethyl or N-2'-pyrazinylmethyl thiazolium derivatives of formula (I) which are useful as transketolase inhibitors wherein R¹, R², R³, Y, R⁵-R⁹, R^a-R^d, n and X⁻ are as defined herein. The present invention also provides pharmaceutical compositions comprising the compounds of formula (I). The invention provides methods for inhibiting transketolase activity, reducing cellular ribose-5-phosphate levels, inhibiting nucleic acid synthesis, inhibiting cell proliferation and tumor cell growth in vitro and in vivo, stimulating apoptosis in tumor cells and treating cancer by administering a compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutical composition thereof.